

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13403

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ETRN, FR

SUBJ: NIXON- POMPIDOU SUMMIT: AGENDA ITEM IV(F)

REF: PARIS 11891, PARIS 11892

1. AS PROMISED REFTELS FOLLOWING IS FULLER DISCUSSION
AGENDA ITEM IV(F) ON GE- SNECMA.

2. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU IS KNOWN TO BE PERSONALLY
INTERESTED IN THIS QUESTION, ON WHICH HE HAS WRITTEN
PRESIDENT NIXON, AND MAY RAISE IT. EVERY
EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO COMPLETE INTER- AGENCY
REVIEW OF E. E.' S REVISED PROPOSAL SO THAT SOME DEFINITIVE
REACTION CAN BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU IF AT ALL
FEASIBLE. IF THE U. S. DECISION IS NEGATIV, PRESIDENT
NIXON SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE THE EXPLANATIONS RELATING
TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THAT
PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WOULD AWAIT. IF THE DECISION IS
FAVORABLE IT MIGHT BE CITED AS AN ERNEST OF U. S.
GOODWILL THAT HOPEFULLY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE
EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO OUR EFFORTS TO FORGE NEW ECONOMIC

AND POLITICAL TIES WITH EUROPE.

FRENCH INDUSTRY AND ELEMENTS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT
AWAIT OUR DECISION ON GE- SNECMA COOPERATION AS A TEST CASE.
SHOULD THE GE- SNECMA DEAL NOT BE APPROVED, IT IS KNOT
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KNOWN WHETHER THE FRENCH WOULD ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP ON THEIR OWN OR WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS THE 10- TON ENGINE FOR WHICH G. E. AND THE FRENCH FORESEE A VAST MARKET. G. E. HOWEVER, CLAIMS TO BE UNABLE TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT ON ITS OWN. LOSS TO THE U. S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS THROUGH G. E. 'S SHARING OF THE SALE PROCEEDS WITH SNECMA MUST THEREFORE BE WEIGHED AGAINST LOSS TO OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND TO OUR INDUSTRY SHOULD THE ENGINE BE DEVELOPED ENTIRELY IN EUROPE.

U. S. DISAPPROVAL OF G. E.' S REVISED PROPOSAL COULD BE READ IN FRANCE - AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE - AS EVIDENCE THAT THE U. S. IS REALLY DETERMINED TO PRESERVE A MONOPOLY POSITION AND THAT HIGH- LEVEL ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY ARE ONLY SO MUCH LIP SERVICE. FRANCE AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP THEIR HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY WOULD, IN THE ABSENCE OF ATTRACTIVE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITH U. S. PARTNERS, PROBABLY CONCLUDE THAT THEY HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RETREAT INTO INWARD-LOOKING, INTRA- EUROPEAN COOPERATION. THIS COULD BE HARMFUL TO A BROAD RANGE OF OUR INTERESTS. THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THIS SHOULD BE VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. IRWIN

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